Transforming to Seabased, Distributed Operations in the Pacific

U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific

Key POTUS Global Posture Goals 16 Aug 04

- Expand defense relationships…build new partnerships
- Presence tailored to match local conditions
- Reduce impact of presence on host nations
- Flexibility in force posture and basing
- Improve rapid response capabilities…
  - Updated transport infrastructure, prepositioned equipment, and lean command structures
- Focus on capabilities… speed, reach, precision, knowledge, and lethality

Key POTUS Posture Goals for Asia

- Improve ability to deter, dissuade, and defeat.
- ***Forward stationing of additional expeditionary maritime capabilities to enable prompt and effective military action both regionally and globally.***
- Advanced strike assets in WestPac.
- Establish a network of FOSs and CSLs to provide training opportunities and contingency access for conventional and special forces.

Strategic Landscape

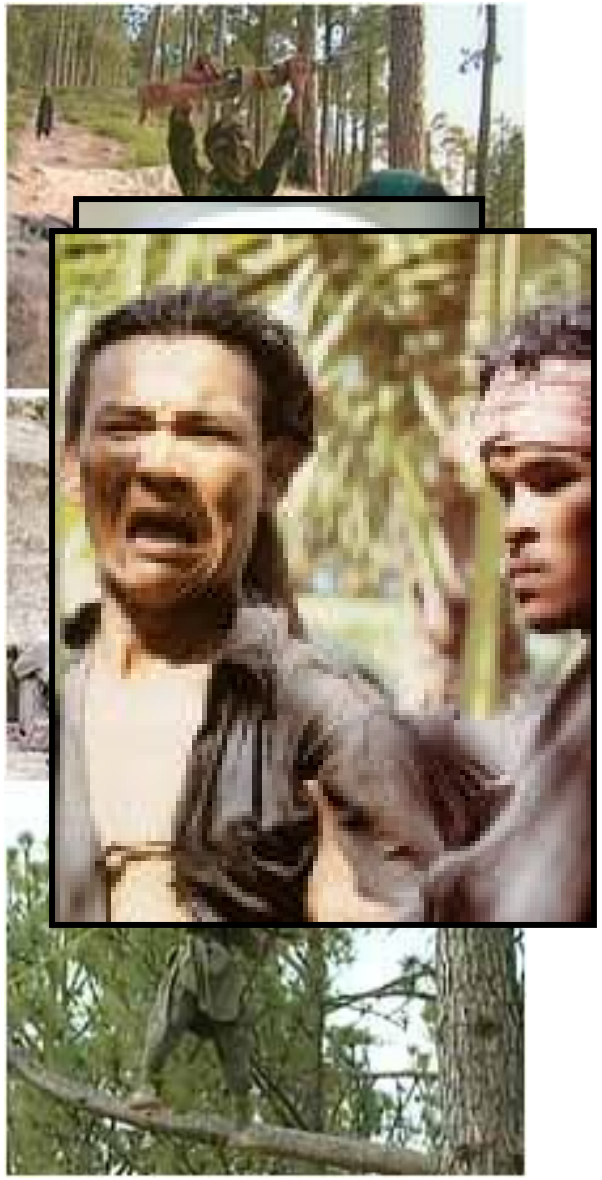
- **The War on Terrorism**
  - **A global radical Islamist insurgency, civil war within Islam**
  - **Asymmetric warfare fought by decentralized groups of terrorists**
  - **Exploitation of failed and failing states—intrastate conflicts**
- **The Traditional Threats**
  - **Regional powers with conventional and (some) nuclear capability**
  - **Continued instability created by interstate conflicts**

Our challenge in this new century is a difficult one. It's really to prepare to defend our nation against the unknown, the uncertain and what we have to understand will be the unexpected.

SecDef D. H. Rumsfeld

Winning the Pacific War on Terror Today...and Tomorrow

- **Assumptions about our enemy:**
  - Our enemy's goal is a major change in the social order.
  - Two essentials for the terrorist base are a dissatisfied local population and an ineffective government.
  - Deliberate targeting of the population for coercion and persuasion is the rule.



Winning the Pacific War on Terror Today...and Tomorrow

Assumptions about our friends:

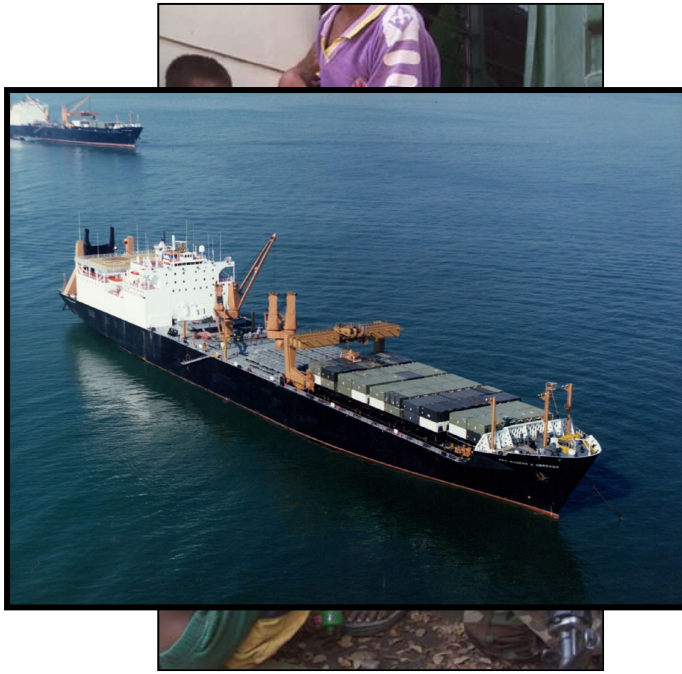
- Islam in Asia is malleable.
- Winning hearts and minds is more important than arresting or killing people.
  - Loyalty of the people is the center of gravity. This war is for the allegiance of the people.
  - HA/DR/HCA missions gain access, exposure to populace.

- **Military cooperation with the host nation provides the security framework that enables social (culture, religious, education), economic (trade, loans, gifts) and political (support, recognition visit) cooperation.**

Winning the Pacific War on Terror Today...and Tomorrow

Assumptions about how to win:

- A combined, interagency approach is required.
- Host Nation's success is enhanced by gaining the people's allegiance while minimizing natural resentment to intrusion.
- Keep US footprint ashore small by SeaBasing
  - Permanent presence ashore requires large support bases and logistical infrastructure and, especially in someone else's civil war, inevitably creates an adverse cultural reaction.
  - Offshore presence allows us to tailor support depending on the local conditions



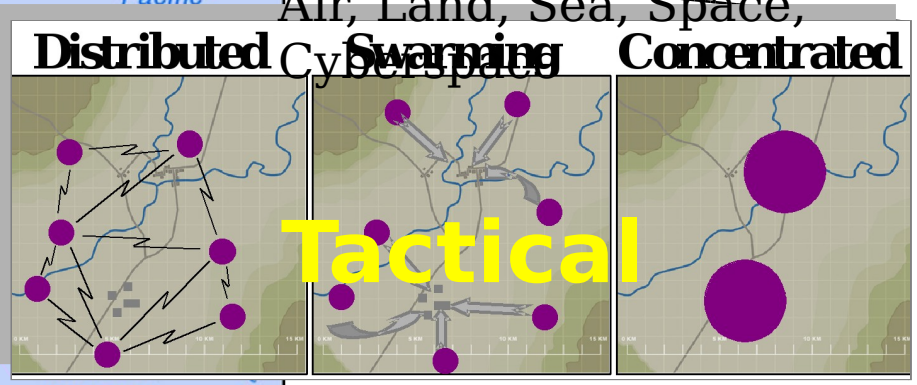
Problem & Challenge

- **<u>Major War Archetype & Requirements in NE Asia</u>: Firepower Intensive (Air, Armor); Our Strategic Mobility produces Operational Maneuver.**
  - **Logistically heavy; requires fixed bases, major sea and airports, precision weapons, prepositioned equipment.**
- **<u>War on Terror Archetype & Requirements in SE Asia</u>: Small Unit Intensive; Our Tactical Mobility produces Operational Maneuver.**
  - **Logistically lighter; requires mobile bases, preferably afloat, small sea and airports, light infantry, medical, dental and civil engineering efforts.**

Transformational Vision

- **End State:** A seabased, distributed, networked presence throughout the region, agile enough to be widely dispersed as required, yet able to reassemble quickly if necessary.
  - Adaptable expeditionary presence enacted through combined training and ops
  - Conditions to fight and win WOT achieved (Environment shaped)
  - Supported by Seabasing and Distributed Operations (DO)
  - POTUS posture goals met.

Distributed Operations



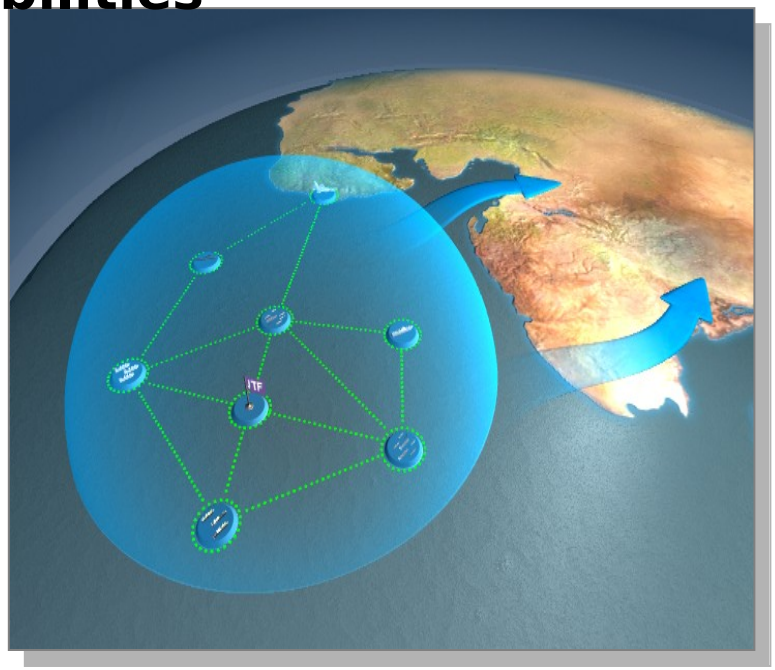
Across the:

- **Levels of war-**
  Strategic, Operational, & Tactical
- **Range of military operations-** Shaping & Engagement to Stabilization & Reconstruction (Phase 0 - Phase 4)
- **Domains of the battlespace-**
  Air, Land, Sea, Space, Cyberspace

Seabasing

The Marine Corps will exploit the US Navy's command of the sea to project, protect, and sustain integrated joint warfighting capabilities

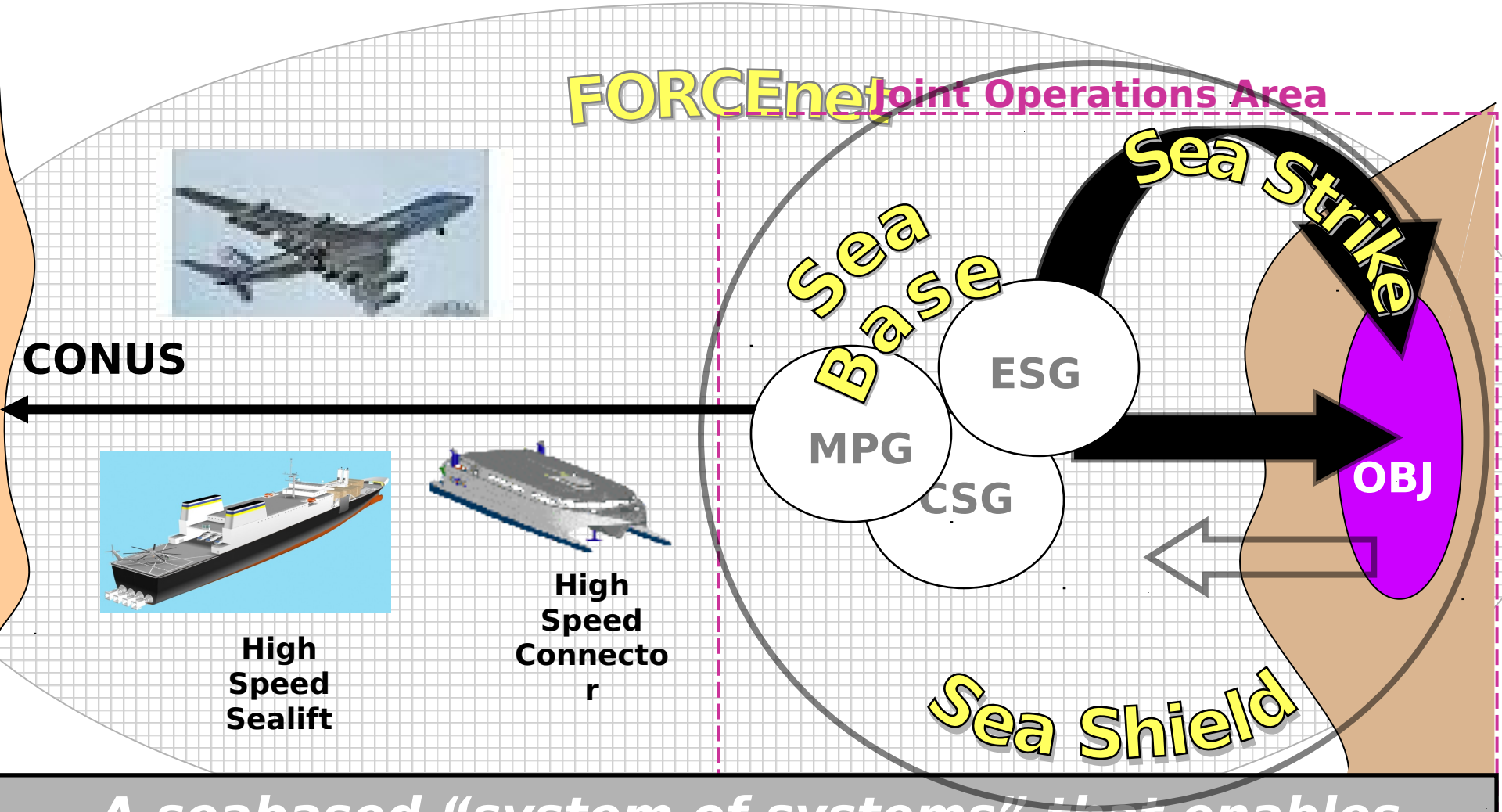
- **National capability for global force projection**
  - Exploits sea as maneuver space 365 days a year
- **Requires tools developed from Naval Capability Pillars**
  - Sea Shield, Sea Strike, Sea Base, FORCEnet
- **Enables capabilities of the Joint Force**
- **Maximizes the effects of forward presence**
- **Reduces dependence on vulnerable land bases, "steps lightly" on allies and partners**
  - Increased options for the President
  - Operational independence for the Regional Combatant Commanders



Exploits and supports Distributed Operations across the full range of military operations

Solution: Maritime Prepositioning Force (Future)

Rapid power projection without a permission slip



A seabased "system of systems" that enables rapid joint Forcible Entry Ops

High Speed Connectors

–Includes High Speed Vessels (HSV), High Speed Ships (HSS), and Theater Support Vessels (TSV)

HSV-2 Swift

Capacity: 250 Passengers, 500 S/T

Range: 1200 NM

Speed: 30-35 KTS Fully Loaded

WestPac Express

Capacity: 970 Passengers, 420 S/T

Range: 1400 NM

Speed: 28-30 KTS Fully Loaded

Operational Concept (1)

- As intratheater lift and access sites develop, deploy SPMAGTFs consisting primarily of ground and CSS forces to a FOS or CSL
- SPMAGTF Equipment is aboard reconfigured MPF ships that sail to the FOSs for selective off-load
- SPMAGTF ACEs deploy to FOSs from Japan bases as required

Operational Concept (1)

SPMAGTF

1st MAW Units

Okinawa

Hawaii

Guam

SPMAGTF Equipment (MPF)

Operational Concept (2)

- From a FOS, a SPMAGTF can move to, or send selected elements to, any CSL or expeditionary training site (ETS), or any series of CSLs and ETSs
  - FOSs, CSLs and ETSs are picked to provide airfields, LZs, anchorages, and port access networks accessible by air, HSC, amphib ships, and pierside or shallow water offload by MPF.
- SPMAGTFs can operate independently or within a flexible, task organized Expeditionary Strike Group formed from available available amphib ships, MPF ships, fly-in forces, and HSCs
  - Flexibility of task organization and lift allows presence in any place, any time

Operational Concept (2)

Operational Concept (3)

- SPMAGTF and SOF forces co-deploy or co-locate at FOSs, CSLs, and ETSs for joint/combined training and operations
  - SOF equipment prepositioned on MPF ships
  - SPMAGTF CSS enables SOF basing and ops at ETSs and CSLs
  - SPMAGTF co-location with SOF provides support element, enables SOF presence in sensitive areas

Operational Concept (4)

- Contingency response capabilities
  - Immediate response available from deployed SPMAGTF(s), 31st MEU (SOC) and III MEF
    - SPMAGTF can utilize separate elements operating at specific ETSs, provide elements to the MEU (SOC), reassemble as a single entity, reassemble and merge with the MEU (SOC) to form a single Maritime Prepositioned Group, or merge with III MEF
  - Rapid response enabler for follow-on forces scalable to:
    - Alert MAGTF augmentation
    - MEF/MEB CE capable of forming a JTF
    - Multiple MPF MEB flow
    - MEF

UNCLAS

Concept Bottom Line

- In the Pacific, we have a new Paradigm…

  "Exercises and Training Operationalize the WOT"

  - Builds capacity with our allies
  - Allows us to shape the battlespace in advance of extremists, and operate "in their backyard."

- We use our strengths of mobility, intelligence, training, and logistics to meet the South and SE Asia presence challenge, while still able to rapidly respond to NE Asia contingencies.

Transitioning

Making the concept a reality

US Transformation Efforts

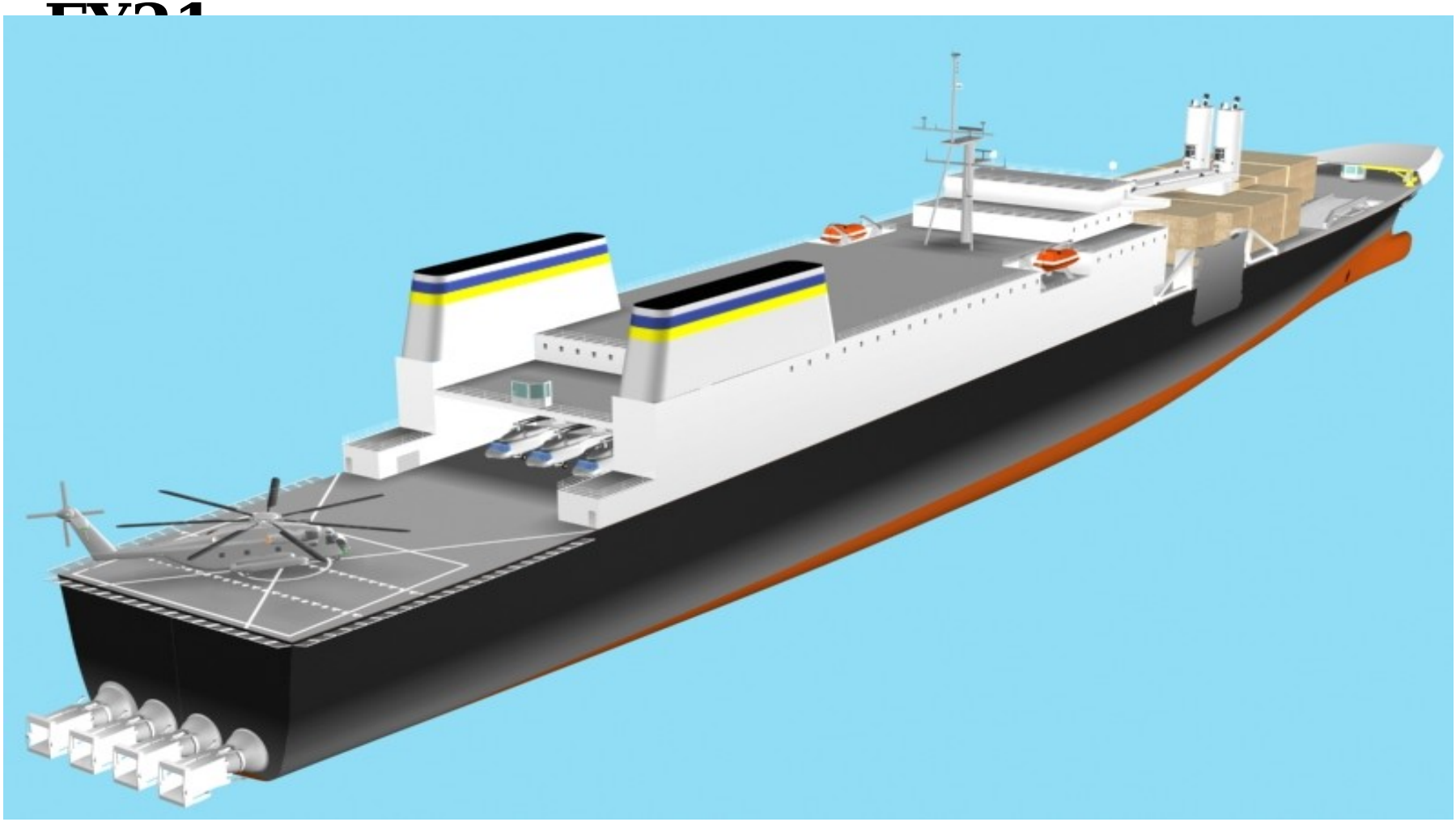
- **Increase number of HSC, refine capability requirements and basing options**
  - HSC critical to enabling at-sea arrival and assembly, sustainment, and operational speed/flexibility of sea-based force
  - Evaluate all Services and SOF requirements for inter-theater and intra-theater lift
  - Evaluate joint force C2 requirements
  - Ensure HSC variants capable of carrying rotary wing aircraft without disassembly
  - Evaluate HSC basing requirements: West Coast CONUS, Hawaii, Western Pacific

US Transformation Efforts

- **MV-22 into theater 2011-2014**
  - Provides self-deployable, vertical medium lift aircraft to conduct combat, combat support, CSS, and Special Ops missions

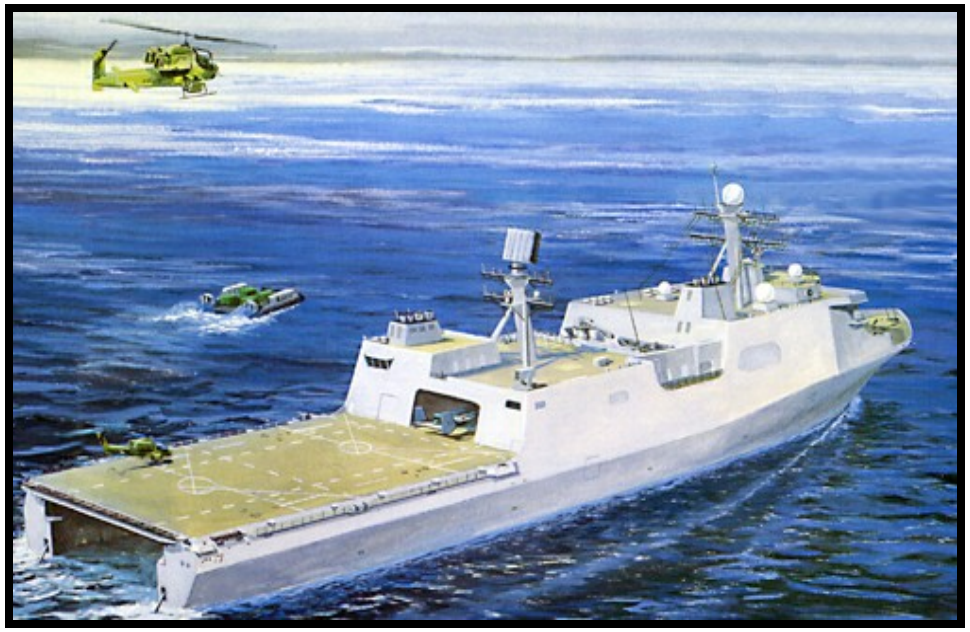
US Transformation Efforts

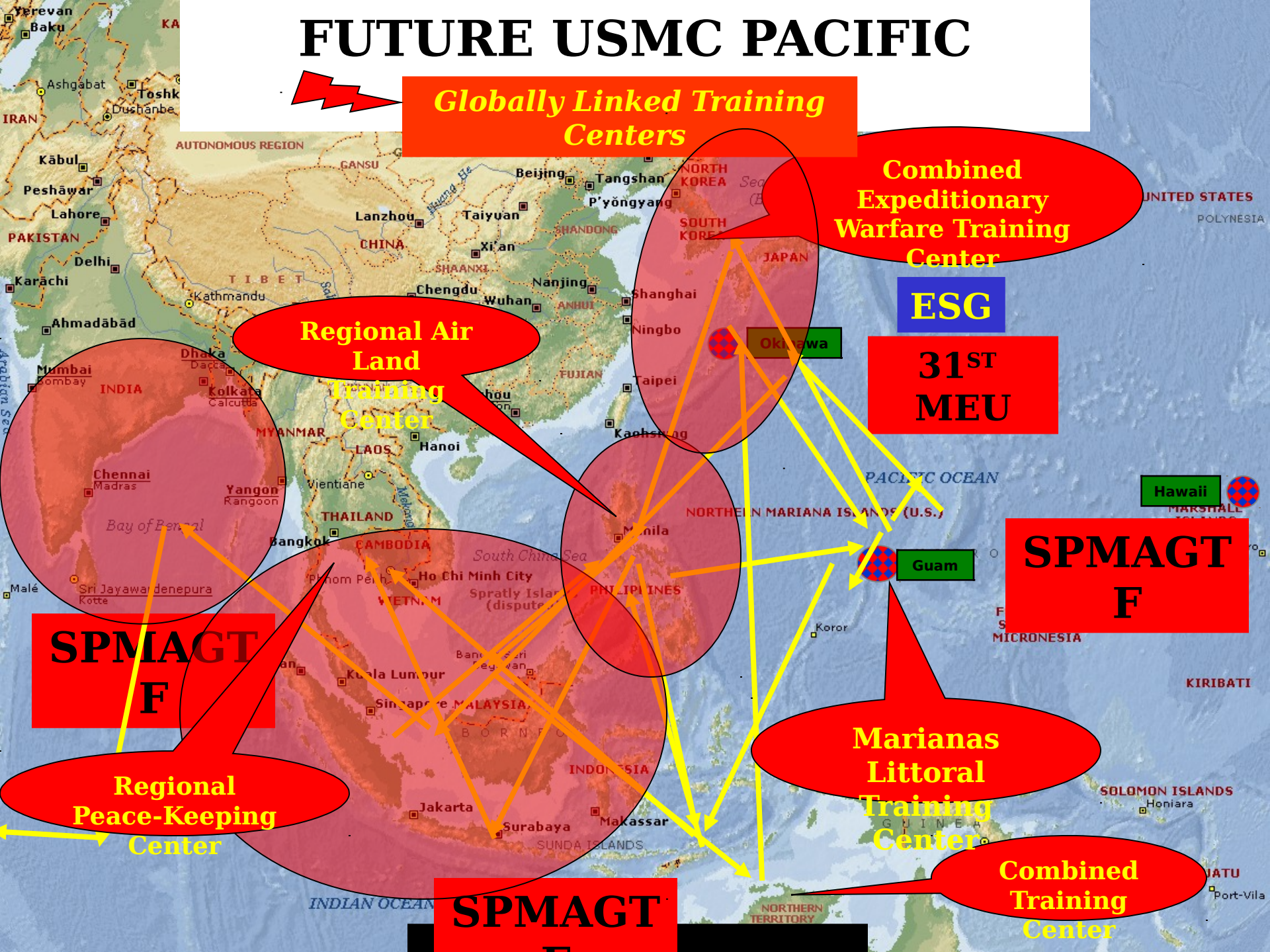
- **MPF (F) commences FY12; complete in FY21**



US Transformation Efforts

- Considering new home port posture for amphibious ships or refining the USN surge concept to maximize naval force posture in support of Pacific sea based operations




FUTURE USMC PACIFIC
Globally Linked Training Centers
Combined Expeditionary Warfare Training Center
ESG
31ST MEU
Regional Air Land Training Center
SPMAGTF
SPMAGTF
Regional Peace-Keeping Center
Marianas Littoral Training Center
Combined Training Center
SPMAGTF
Okinawa
Guam
Hawaii
PACIFIC OCEAN
South China Sea
INDIAN OCEAN
Bay of Bengal
Arabian Sea
CHINA
INDIA
PAKISTAN
IRAN
JAPAN
PHILIPPINES
INDONESIA
MALAYSIA
THAILAND
MYANMAR
VIETNAM
CAMBODIA
LAOS
MICRONESIA
SOLOMON ISLANDS
KIRIBATI
NORTHERN TERRITORY
Beijing
Tangshan
P'yŏngyang
Lanzhou
Taiyuan
Xi'an
Chengdu
Wuhan
Nanjing
Shanghai
Ningbo
Taipei
Kathmandu
Dhaka
Mumbai
Kolkata
Chennai
Yangon
Vientiane
Hanoi
Bangkok
Ho Chi Minh City
Manila
Kuala Lumpur
Singapore
Jakarta
Surabaya
Makassar
Koror
Honiara
Port-Vila
Darwin

What our Allies and Friends Gain

- For Developed Nations…
  - Improved Regional Security
  - Transformed militaries better able to meet security demands
- For Developing Nations…
  - More competent militaries, with less corruption
  - Improved Regional and Internal Security
  - Reduced seams for terrorist to exploit
- For All…
  - Faster response times for crises and natural disasters

The Future

- A continuous seabased, distributed, networked presence throughout the region, agile enough to be widely dispersed as required, yet able to reassemble quickly if necessary.
  - Fully incorporating the concepts of Seabasing and Distributed Operations
  - Achieving each of the President's New Global Posture Policy Goals
- A potent, flexible force positioned to fight and win the GWOT, integrated into the DIME on the strategic, operational and tactical levels of war.

Questions?

Backup slides

US Transformation Efforts

- **Joint Strike Fighter into theater 2012**

List of Acronyms

- USMC - United States Marine Corps
- USN - United States Navy
- D.O. - Distributed Operations
- MPF-F - Maritime Prepositioned Force (Future)
- MPG - Maritime Prepositioned Group
- ESG - Expeditionary Strike Group
- CSG -Carrier Strike Group
- OBJ – Objective
- MEF - Marine Expeditionary Force
- MEB – Marine Expeditionary Brigade
- HSC – High Speed Connector
- HSV – High Speed Vessels
- HSS – High Speed Ships
- TSV – Theater Support Vessels
- FY – Fiscal Year
- JGSDF – Japanese Ground Self Defense Forces
- MEU – Marine Expeditionary Unit
- ARG – Amphibious Ready Group
- CSPAGTF – Combined Special Purpose Air Ground Task Force
- HA/DR – Humanitarian Assistance / Disaster Relief
- MAGTF – Marine Air Ground Task Force
- SOF – Special Operations Forces
- AOR – Area of Responsibility
- NAVCHAPGRU – Navy Cargo Handling and Port Group
- LSV – Logistics Support Vessel
- LCU – Landing Craft Utility
- FSM – Federated States of Micronesia
- MPSRon – Maritime Prepositioned Squadron